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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/536,383	03/28/2000	Sandra K. Richardson	M3653.0001/P001-B	5614

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EXAMINER

THOMPSON JR, FOREST

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3625

DATE MAILED: 02/25/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/536,383

Applicant(s)

RICHARDSON ET AL.

Examiner

Forest Thompson Jr.

Art Unit

3625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 November 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,6-8 and 10-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 13-17 and 19-27 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,6-8,10-12 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 March 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action (See Paper No. 5). The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not otherwise provided in a prior Office action will be included in this action where appropriate.
2. Amendment A filed on 11/27/2002 (see Paper #6) has been entered. Amendment A amended the specification, amended claims 1, 6, 7, 8, and 10, cancelled claims 2-5 and 9, and added new claims 11-27. Claims 1, 6-8, and 10-27 are pending.

Election/Restrictions

3. Newly submitted claims 13-17 and 19-27 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons:
 - Original claims 1-10 were directed toward a method and apparatus for planning tasks, or as amended, a method and apparatus for monitoring and managing a project.
 - New claims 13-17, 19-23, and 24-27 are directed to determining compensation and payments for human participants and/or their organizations.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 13-17 and 19-27 are withdrawn from

Art Unit: 3625

consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03. Claims 1, 6-8, 10-12, and 18 are pending.

4. Claims 1, 6-8, 10-12, and 18 have been examined.

Drawings

5. New corrected drawings are required in this application because the drawings contain edits and smudges that are unacceptable on formal drawings. Figures 1-11 contain copying marks and smudges. Figure 11 contains numerous handwritten identifiers. Figures 5-11 have indistinct features due to the copying process for the drawings submitted by applicant. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Double Patenting

6. Claims 1-10 were provisionally rejected in Paper #5 under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-10 of copending Applications No. 09/536,277 and 09/536,383. This was a provisional double patenting rejection since the conflicting claims had not yet been patented. Applicant's amendment overcomes the rejection. Therefore, examiner withdraws the rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. Claims 1-10 were rejected in Paper #5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by William R. Duncan, "A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge," Project management Institute, 1996, hereafter referred to as Duncan. Applicant's amendment A overcomes the rejection as presented. Therefore, examiner withdraws the previous rejection.

8. Claims 1, 6-8, 10-12, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Duncan.

Claims 1, 10, 18: Duncan discloses

- breaking a current project into a plurality of tasks, wherein the performance of each task is tracked on the basis of at least one task related event (pg. 30-32, para. 3.3.2; pg. 59, para. 6.1);
- setting a tasking horizon based on a predetermined time interval (pg. 30-32, para. 3.3.2; pg. 170), described in the context of target finish date determination and schedule development;
- associating at least two verbs with said at least one task related event for each of said plurality of tasks (pg. 46, para. 4.3.3.3), where verbs and language are encompassed by lessons learned;
- receiving a respective predicted date for at least one task related event (pg. 31; fig. 3-5 [6.3]), which is disclosed in activity duration estimating;

- receiving a corresponding actual date for each task related event for which a predicted date was received (pg. 31; fig. 3-5 [6.4]; pg. 159), which is disclosed as schedule development, activity definition and actual start date;
- for each actual date received, receiving a verb associated with the respective task related event, said received verb being one of said at least two verbs (pg. 31; fig. 3-5 [6.4]; pg. 159), which is disclosed as schedule development, activity definition and actual start date; and
- tracking the performance of said project in real time based at least in part on the predicted dates, actual dates and verbs received for each of said task related events (pg. 31; fig. 3-5 [6.3, 6.4]; pg. 159);
capturing at least the predicted dates, actual dates and verbs received for each of said task related events and updating the project status based on the captured information, to thereby provide accurate and real time data regarding said current project and said plurality of tasks of said project (pg. 31; fig. 3-5 [6.3, 6.4]; pg. 159);
- at least one task assignment station (pg. 96; fig. 9-2);
- said management module and said task assignment station are operationally connected (pg. 8-10, para. 1.4-5; fig. 1-2);
- said management module receives predicted dates and actual dates entered at said task assignment station (pg. 31; fig. 3-5 [6.3]; pg. 31; fig. 3-5 [6.4]; pg. 159); and
- a human resources module (pg. 93-101, Chapter 9).

Claim 6. Duncan discloses computing a risk factor for at least one of said plurality of tasks based on data of at least one of said computed churn and said received verb, said data corresponding respectively to said at least one of said plurality of tasks (pg. 115-118, para. 11.2; fig. 11-1; fig. 11-2).

Claim 7. Duncan discloses:

- comparing said plurality of tasks of said current project to a plurality of tasks of at least one past project (pg. 46; para. 4.3.3.3; fig. 6-1; para. 6.1.1.3; pg. 113 para. 11.1.1.3);
- extracting previously performed task completion data for said plurality of tasks for said at least one past project (pg. 46; para. 4.3.3.3; fig. 6-1; para. 6.1.1.3; pg. 113 para. 11.1.1.3); and
- computing an expected task completion time for at least one of said plurality of tasks of said current project based at least in part on said previously performed task completion data (pg. 46; para. 4.3.3.3; fig. 6-1; para. 6.1.1.3; 6.1.3; pg. 113 para. 11.1.1.1-3).

Claim 8. Duncan discloses:

- comparing said plurality of tasks of said current project to a plurality of tasks of at least one past project (pg. 46; para. 4.3.3.3; fig. 6-1; para. 6.1.1.3; pg. 113 para. 11.1.1.3);

- extracting at least one risk factor associated with said plurality of tasks of said at least one past project (pg. 46; para. 4.3.3.3; fig. 6-1; para. 6.1.1.3; pg. 113 para. 11.1.1.3); and
- computing a risk factor for at least one of said plurality of tasks for said current project based at least in part on said extracted at least one risk factor (fig. 11-1 [11.1.3; 11.2.2-3; 11.3.3; 11.1-3); as encompassed by the identification and quantification of risk.

Claim 11. Duncan does not specifically disclose computing churn for each task related event for which a predicted date and an actual date was received, based on differences between corresponding ones of said received predicted and actual dates relative to said tasking horizon. However, Duncan does disclose the necessary functionality for computing churn for each task related event for which a predicted date and an actual date was received (pg. 107-108, para. 10.3; pg. 109 fig. 10-2; pg. 110 fig. 10-3; pg. 113, para. 11.1.1). Therefore, the claim is rejected.

Claim 12. Duncan discloses the performance of said project is tracked in relation to a work unit, said work unit comprising an individual, a team, a group, a branch, a division, or an entire company (pg. 93-101, Chapter 9).

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 6-8, and 10 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.


11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Forest Thompson Jr. whose telephone number is (703) 306-5449. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30-3:30.

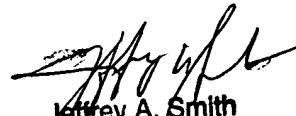
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wynn Coggins can be reached on (703) 308-1344. The fax phone numbers

Art Unit: 3625

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7687 for regular communications and (703) 305-7687 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.


F. Thompson
February 21, 2003


Jeffrey A. Smith
Primary Examiner